

2012 MBC Annual Meeting Schedule

Oct. 30, 2012 • Tuesday Morning, First Session

- 8:30 Call to Order David Hamilton
Worship Through Music Praise Team
Scripture Reading Chip Stevens
Prayer James Hunsucker
8:50 Organization of the Convention David Hamilton
Recognition and Seating of Messengers
Committee on Order of Business Report Jerry Smith
Announcement of Credentials
and Tellers Committees David Hamilton
Welcome Bob Gladney
9:05 Worship Through Music Praise Team
9:10 Report of Committee on Committees Gene Neal
9:15 Bible Treasures Jeff Iorg
9:40 Presentation of Resolutions
9:45 Congregational Praise James Francis
9:50 2013 Theme Interpretation: Worship Slater Murphy
10:00 Business Session: Election of the President Matt Buckles
10:20 Convention Board Report Clarence Cooper
10:30 Congregational Praise James Francis
10:35 Christian Action Commission Report Jimmy Porter
10:45 Concert of Praise Sanctuary Choir
10:55 President's Address David Hamilton
11:30 Benediction Nathan Hamilton

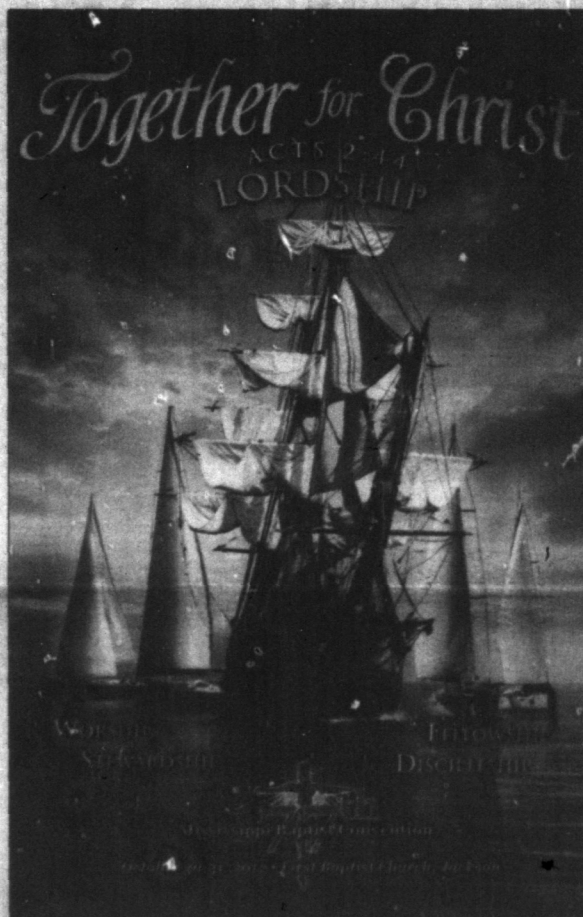
Oct. 30, 2012 • Tuesday Afternoon, Second Session

- 1:30 Concert of Praise Mississippi Singing Churchmen
1:45 Call to Order Matt Buckles
Congregational Praise Keith Stevens
Scripture Reading Roy McKay
Prayer James Nichols
2:00 Bible Treasures Jeff Iorg
2:25 Concert of Praise Mississippi Singing Churchmen
2:35 Business Session David Hamilton
Presentation of 2013 Budget Kent Cochran
Results of Election as President
Election of Convention Officers
Presentation of Resolutions
Miscellaneous Business
3:00 2013 Theme Interpretation: Fellowship Kiely Young
3:10 Music Feature Sanctuary Choir
3:15 Business Session David Hamilton
Election of Convention Officers
Miscellaneous Business
3:30 Mississippi Baptist Health Systems Report Mark Slyter
3:40 Congregational Praise Keith Stevens
3:45 Missions Mobilization Ken Rhodes
3:55 Choral Praise Sanctuary Choir
4:05 Convention Sermon Jim Phillips
4:40 Benediction Bobby McKay

Oct. 30, 2012 • Tuesday Night, Third Session

- 6:30 Choral Praise Combined Choirs
6:35 Call to Order David Hamilton
Final Presentation of Resolutions
Congregational Praise and Worship Slater Murphy
Scripture Reading Stanley Huddleston
Prayer David Eldridge
6:50 Choral Praise Combined Choirs
7:00 Congregational Praise and Worship Slater Murphy
7:05 2013 Theme Interpretation: Stewardship David Michel
7:15 Choral Praise Combined Choirs
7:25 2013 Theme Interpretation: Lordship Jim Futral
8:00 Benediction Andy Fullington

For a list of area accommodations and special pricing for the Mississippi Baptist Convention see page nine.



Oct. 31, 2012 • Wednesday Morning, Fourth Session

- 8:30 Call to Order Chris Aldridge
Worship through Music Derrick Cowan
Scripture Reading Cosme Arana
Prayer Paul Brashier
8:45 Memorial Service Bruce Cappleman
8:55 Mississippi Baptist Foundation Report Daniel Hall
Introduction of College Presidents David Hamilton
9:05 Blue Mountain College Report Barbara Childers McMillin
9:20 2013 Theme Interpretation: Discipleship Marcus Peagler
9:30 Worship through Music Derrick Cowan and
Forgiven Quartet
9:35 Bible Treasures Jeff Iorg
10:05 Business Session David Hamilton
Adoption of 2013 Budget Kent Cochran
Committee on Nominations Report Gordon Sansing
Time, Place, and Preacher Committee Report Frank Gunn
Resolutions Committee Report P.J. Scott
Miscellaneous Business David Hamilton
10:30 Baptist Children's Village Report Rory Lee
10:40 Music Feature Forgiven Quartet
10:50 Message Fred Luter
11:30 Closing Remarks David Hamilton
11:35 Benediction Robert Washington

Preschool Care at Convention

Preschool care will be available for children by pre-registration, ages birth through five, at First Baptist Church, Jackson, during the Pastors' Conference and the Mississippi Baptist Convention, October 29, noon — October 31, 2012. Call Michelle Sansing, Childcare Coordinator, at 601-949-1997 to pre-register. All children must be pre-registered by Monday, October 22, 2012.

The preschool departments are located on the street level off North State Street.

Following are the procedures:

1. Pre-register, giving name and age of each child, the parent, and the church.
2. Pick up a security card for each child on arrival.
3. Be sure all belongings are labeled.
4. For infants, leave a time schedule for feeding.
5. Leave the children no earlier than 15 minutes before the beginning of a session and pick them up no later than 15 minutes after the close of the session.

Children may remain in the preschool area during the Convention lunch break on Tuesday if parents provide a

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From the editor

WILLIAM PERKINS

Our civic duty, our spiritual duty

Someone somewhere will always think that a given election is the most important in the history of a city or county or state or the nation, but it would be difficult to underestimate the gravity of the next election we face. On Nov. 6, Americans will elect a president, every member of the U.S. House of Representatives, and one-third of the U.S. Senate.

It is not only our right as Christians to vote in the democratic Republic our Founding Fathers organized so well for us, it is our responsibility. If Christians expect to be taken seriously, we have to vote. Politicians understand the power of the ballot box.

If voting is an important aspect of our civic duty, attending the annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention is an important aspect of our spiritual duty. The convention, which will meet on Oct. 30-31 at First Church, Jackson, has since 1824 served as a blessing from God for the furtherance of Kingdom work and obedience to our Lord's Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20).

The Mississippi Baptist Convention is a critical link in the Great Commission chain that stretches from each of us in the pews to the people serving on the most remote mission fields on earth — and that's no exaggeration. From this incredible chain has grown the greatest missionary-sending enterprise in the history of the Protestantism — and that's no exaggeration, either.

The Cooperative Program is the unified giving plan that sprang from unified Baptists to support our manifold and far-flung ministries. Through the Cooperative Program, the people in the pews have the opportunity to give to their local church, which retains a percentage of the funds for their missions activities and sends the remainder to their state Baptist convention (in our case, the Mississippi Baptist Convention).

The state Baptist conventions receive those funds and retain a portion for state missions activities. The remainder is sent by the state Baptist conventions to the Southern Baptist Convention, which uses its portion of the gifts

from the people in the pews to fund its missions activities.

All along the Cooperative Program pipeline, each entity determines the portion of church-goers' gifts that will be retained at that level and how much will be sent on to the next level. The local church determines how much will be sent to the state Baptist conventions, and the state Baptist conventions determine how much will be sent to the Southern Baptist Convention.

That's where you come in. It is important that members be involved in the decisions that are made at the local church level — and not all of those important decisions involve finances. It is equally important that the members of churches affiliated with the Mississippi Baptist Convention be involved on the state convention level, as crucial decisions of all types are also made there.

Messengers are chosen by their local churches to represent their local churches in voting matters of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, as presented at the annual meeting. To find out how to represent your church at the annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, contact your church office.

If your church office isn't sure how to do that, ask them to contact the office of the executive director of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board at (601) 292-3201 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 201. E-mail: bbox@mbcb.org.

The annual meeting is not all business. You don't even have to be designated as a messenger to attend the annual meeting. It's open to anyone who wants to join together to worship the Lord and praise His greatness — and there's plenty of time and plenty of ways set aside on the schedule to do just that. (Only registered messengers can vote on business, however.)

Like our secular government, our denominational polity is centered around self-governance. Both systems work because the people get involved. One is our civic duty; the other is our spiritual duty. May we not fail in our commitment to either.

Could 30 million votes make a difference?

Let each citizen remember at the moment he is offering his vote that he is not making a present or a compliment to please an individual — or at least that he ought not so to do; but that he is executing one of the most solemn trusts in human society for which he is accountable to God and his country. — Samuel Adams, Founding Father



Guest opinion
with Sudi Kate Gliebe

Two years ago, my husband Steven and I started Patriots' Campaign Ministry. We approached our pastor with the vision to register voters at our church. It was not hard to convince him. His courage and patriotism were evident, so with our pastor's blessing we became deputy registrars and held our first voter registration drive before the 2010 primaries.

This year, we recruited another couple to become deputized and held a four-Sunday voter registration drive in the Spring. Next, we sought our pastor's blessing to export the ministry to churches in our area. Once again, he gave us his unwavering support and wrote a letter to endorse our ministry.

After dozens of emails and phone calls, a handful of churches invited us to come and hold registration drives. The churches that turned us down inspired me to write this article.

Champion the Vote estimates that out of 60 million Christians in America, only 30 million vote or are even registered. Can you imagine the impact 30 million votes can have on a general election? Can you fathom the weight that 30 million votes would have on the issues of life, marriage, religious freedom, and fiscal restraint? Think what would happen if 30 million believers embraced this truth: My vote counts.

Clearly, however, these 30 million believers either don't care enough to vote or have never been taught the importance of voting. This is why pastors are so important, but before I share how pastors can encourage their congregations to get involved in the political process, let me give just two examples of why voting is so important.

First, the value of life is the heartbeat of God and marriage is the nucleus of God's church. When government says the destruction of life is lawful and the definition of marriage expendable, the Kingdom of God is threatened and the church must say no! Therefore, electing pro-life candidates that are committed to life and God's definition of marriage is a biblical and moral imperative.

Secondly, the religious freedom we enjoy in America is not guaranteed. It must be defended and preserved. In fact, religious freedom in America is severely under attack. Therefore, electing candidates who are committed to defending religious freedoms in America is crucially important.

Politics is not a hobby like scrapbooking. Getting involved should not be an option. Politics, whether we like it or not, affects every area of our lives. The stakes for families and ministry are very high.

Here are five things pastors can do to make a difference:

- Teach the congregation the importance of praying for God to raise righteous leaders to fill the White House, the U.S. Congress and the U.S. Supreme Court. Call out periods of fasting and prayer for this specific purpose. Create prayer guides and distribute them

- Preach boldly about the sanctity of life and the importance of honoring God's definition of marriage — one man and one woman. These are biblical

see GLIEBE on p. 11

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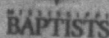
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Chick-fil-A president: No change in practices, priorities

ATLANTA (BP) — Following reports that Chick-fil-A had agreed to stop funding certain traditional family groups in order to get approval for a new Chicago restaurant, company President Dan Cathy said Friday the restaurant made no concessions and "we remain true to who we are."

Cathy's statement, posted on Mike Huckabee's website, came one day after the company released its own statement saying that its corporate giving has "been mischaracterized" for many months and that it will continue to fund programs that "strengthen and enrich marriages."

Said Cathy, "There continues to be erroneous implications in the media that Chick-fil-A changed our practices and priorities in order to obtain permission for a new restaurant in Chicago. That is incorrect. Chick-fil-A made no such concessions, and we remain true to who we are and who we have been."

Focus on the Family President Jim Daly, whose organization supposedly had been de-funded by Chick-fil-A, also has spoken up for the company, and homosexual rights activist groups who initially applauded Chick-fil-A's falsely-alleged policy change are criticizing the restaurant once again.

Chick-fil-A was facing a backlash after Chicago Alderman Joe Moreno and an Illinois homosexual rights activist group announced Sept. 19 that Chick-fil-A had agreed to no longer fund groups opposed to same sex marriage, such as Focus on the Family.

That alleged agreement led Moreno, who had criticized Chick-fil-A during the summer for its president's comments affirming traditional marriage, to stop blocking a new franchise from being built in his ward. In comments to the Chicago Tribune, Moreno called it a "big win."

Media stories nationwide then gave Chick-fil-A another public relations headache. The Atlanta Journal-Constitution's headline read, "Chick-fil-A said to change stance." The Los Angeles Times' headline: "Chick-fil-A promises to stop giving money to anti-gay groups."

The problem? Chick-fil-A's base of support remains largely in conservative states, and those customers hardly consider Focus on the Family and other groups "anti-gay." Many felt Chick-fil-A had caved in.

Earlier this summer, hundreds of thousands of customers took part in Chick-fil-A Appreciation after company president Dan Cathy was criticized for comments supporting the biblical definition of marriage. Chick-fil-A's stance on values is well-known: It is closed on Sundays, and its corporate statement includes the desire to "glorify God."

In the 24 hours after the story out of Chicago broke, Chick-fil-A's Facebook page was flooded with criticism of the new policy. "I'm disgusted that your faith is so weak," one person wrote. "You sure raked in the bucks on Chick Fil A day huh? So when do you start opening on Sunday? As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord!"

Chick-fil-A released a statement Sept. 20, saying that "for many months now, Chick-fil-A's corporate giving has been mischaracterized, and while our sincere intent has been to remain out of



Chick-fil-A restaurant at Dogwood Festival Market, Flowood.

this political and social debate, events from Chicago this week have once again resulted in questions around our giving. For that reason, we want to provide some context and clarity around who we are, what we believe and our priorities in relation to corporate giving.

"A part of our corporate commitment is to be responsible stewards of all that God has entrusted to us. Because of this commitment, Chick-fil-A's giving heritage is focused on programs that educate youth, strengthen families and enrich marriages, and support communities. We will continue to focus our giving in those areas. Our intent is not to support political or social agendas."

The company also released a document that had been referenced in the media called, "Chick-fil-A: Who We Are." In it, the company repeats language from this summer and says its tradition is to "treat every person with honor, dignity and respect — regardless of their belief, race, creed, sexual orientation or gender."

The Who We Are document also says Chick-fil-A "supports programs and marriage retreats to help strengthen and enrich marriages," which more than 4,000 couples attend annually.

The document did not address whether Chick-fil-A has indeed agreed to stop funding certain groups and, if so, which groups. It's also unclear how the company's policy will appease homosexual activist groups, because marriage enrichment programs often are traditional-focused and biblically based and typically define marriage as between a man and a woman.

In fact, the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) — the nation's largest gay group — expressed disappointment in Chick-

fil-A's new statement, particularly its pledge to fund marriage enrichment programs.

The truth is, Chick-fil-A is still donating money to anti-LGBT groups — they are just, once again, using the language of their mission statement to deflect attention," a statement on HRC's website said. "...What that language essentially means is that they will continue to support groups with rabidly anti-LGBT agendas, but they certainly would never want anyone to think that their support should be taken as an endorsement of any particular political agenda."

The acronym, LGBT, stands for "Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender."

Focus on the Family's Daly said in an article at Focus on the Family's CitizenLink web site that he supports the company. He did not directly address whether Chick-fil-A was no longer funding Focus on the Family.

"Dan and Bubba Cathy are my Christian brothers and good friends. They and their company have long shared Focus on the Family's commitment to helping build strong and thriving families — and they have in no way deviated from that deeply held and biblically inspired passion while working with the city of Chicago to open Chick-fil-A restaurants there," Daly said.

"I feel bad the Cathys are having once again to endure media accounts mischaracterizing their values and charitable efforts — and, unfortunately, I know how they feel. Focus on the Family has for 35 years been dedicated to saving and strengthening marriages, helping couples raise happy, resilient kids and encouraging and empowering men and women to advocate for God's truth with Christ's heart. And still, in

stories like some of those about Chick-fil-A's efforts to expand in Chicago, we are described as being 'hateful' toward certain groups of people."

"How is an organization that helps save one marriage every six minutes and helps parents navigate through a crisis involving their children every 90 seconds deemed 'anti' anything but 'anti-family breakdown'?" Daly asked. "That's a question we would hope the media begins to ask with more regularity of those who disagree with us and with Chick-fil-A for bringing our Christian values to bear on the work we do in the public square."

Homosexual rights groups also were upset that Dan Cathy was helping raise money for traditional groups. The Advocate, a homosexual-themed website, took issue with Cathy taking in a fundraiser Sept. 18 known as the WinShape Ride for the Family. The money, the Advocate said, will benefit the Marriage and Family Foundation, which it said funds the Marriage CoMission, a traditional group.

The Winshape Foundation is the charitable giving organization of the Chick-fil-A corporation.

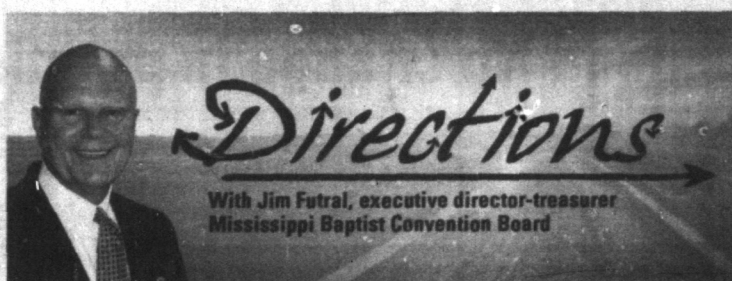
"Granted, the group's sole focus isn't on same-sex marriage," the Advocate reported. "The CoMission emphasizes lowering the divorce rate and making couples more satisfied in their marriages, for example. But even in those instances, the group has made clear it's worried only about heterosexuals being happy in their marriages and avoiding divorce."

The Human Rights Campaign's website referenced the Advocate story in a blog under the headline: "Chick-fil-A Fails to Live Up to Promises of Stricter Donation Guidelines."

Since 1925 Southern Baptists have been involved in the most incredible mission experience ever known to Christianity. The genius of the Cooperative Program, which would allow every church in the Convention to be involved in touching every corner of the globe, was and is nothing short of a God idea. I was visiting with a pastor who because of a number of reasons, some related to his own church and others related to studies and predictions he had read, said, "Maybe it is time to scrap the Cooperative Program." Knowing how mission-minded this pastor is and also being aware of the fact that he was not mad or fussing about anything, I simply asked him, "How would you do that?" From there our conversation and dialogue went in several directions of interest and concern to him and to me.

I was certainly interested in his desire and his church's desire to have more hands-on mission involvement and more face to face involvement with the rest of the globe. Unquestionably with an organization as large as our worldwide mission force and with a globe as big as ours, it is hard to personalize every mission experience that is taking place all of the time. That is both a bad thing and a good thing. It is bad because you want it to be personalized and good because the work has grown so extensively that you just cannot make every spot, every people group, and every missionary priority one in publicity and coverage.

We also talked about some of the studies, analyses, implications, the future of missions and denominations, and the impact of various groups on the world. I suppose the work of George Barna and his organization is the most often referred to and the gold standard of spiritual analysis and predictions. He is not particularly positive about the future of any denomination and certainly does not feel hopeful about the mission sup-



Scrap the Cooperative Program?

port of the Cooperative Program.

For years I have watched and listened as he would analyze and then prognosticate, and I certainly am not in a position to argue with him or his organization. But there are times that I have wondered if some of what we are seeing is not the fulfillment of a self-fulfilled prophecy. I mean by that many organizations come out with some cutting edge, revolutionary thought and it is accepted as fact. It is implemented as though it is the only way that the future will unfold to the point that what they said would happen did happen.

I have often wondered what would have happened if the Apostle Paul had read the trends on missionary activity before he launched his first journey or how many times the church would have been stymied and stalled had they realized that what they were about to attempt was impossible according to the polls. I think we would be unwise indeed to ignore trends and facts around us. I think we would be even dumber to let them dictate how as the people of God we should meet the future. Before you decide to scrap the Cooperative Program, let me raise three questions.

If you do away with the support of the Cooperative Program, what will you directly be affecting in the Kingdom work? Of course, time and space will not permit a full analysis here but everything that the Cooperative Program touches, blesses, and inspires will be hurt. Every missionary, every college, every seminary, every childcare agency, every educational program, all of the assistance provided for new church starts, many old church efforts, and many of the components of what now is recognized as the finest Christian oriented disaster relief program in the nation would no longer be in place. Multiple opportunities for training, encouragement, and development would either be curtailed or stopped. Honestly, that would only be the beginning.

A second question that I think needs to be asked is what, if anything, will replace the Cooperative Program for our future mission strategy and support? When I hear someone say something about doing away with the Cooperative Program I try not to be defensive because I want to listen to what is said hoping that it may even be something better.

If there is something better to touch the entire world for Christ than what God has given us through the Cooperative Program, I want to know about it. Personally, I don't believe that I am just protective of an institution or an organization, but I am passionate about what I have seen God do through this avenue that no one else has ever been able to rival. I think it is marvelous that many of our churches are able to have their own mission plan and send mission groups across the nation and around the world. We need that, but even they are unable to do everything. As a rule wherever they go there are missionaries there waiting to help them. When they come back home the missionaries stay and continue what they were unable to do. The missionaries remain there because of the Cooperative Program. I know of no other plan that fits all sizes and shapes of churches that is geared specifically to reach people for Christ from the local pulpit all the way to the ends of the earth like the Cooperative Program. When a better plan is conceived I will applaud it.

In light of the first two questions, let me ask one last question. Is the Cooperative Program worth saving? I think you know my answer, but it is a question that must be answered by every church, every pastor, every Southern Baptist, every finance committee member, every deacon, every Sunday School teacher, and every denominational worker. And while they have to make their own decision, I would encourage them to join in a chorus for saying, "Yes! Yes! Yes!" Should we scrap the Cooperative Program? No, not now and maybe not ever, but we should recommit to what God is doing to touch a world through the Cooperative Program. We should say a resounding yes to the glory of Christ and the saving of souls.

The author can be contacted at jfutral@mbcb.org.

Author: Cohabitation spoils chances of successful marriage later on

WASHINGTON (BP) — Cohabiting couples are 30-50% less likely to have successful marriages, statistics show.

"We now know unequivocally that cohabitation doesn't work. Churches, the gatekeepers of weddings, can delay no longer. They must educate, equip, and elevate marriage to the position it deserves," author Mike McManus wrote in his book, *Living Together: Myths, Risks and Answers*.

From 1960-2011, the number of cohabitating couples jumped from 430,000 to 7.6 million, according to statistics McManus cited at an event hosted by the Family Research Council (FRC). As a rising social norm, cohabitation has become prevalent across all generations in Christian and secular realms and often results in divorce, McManus said.

The divorce rate could be reduced if churches would take a higher interest in preparing couples for marriage, he said.

McManus co-founded Marriage Savers in 1996 with his wife Harriet to help churches reduce

"We now know unequivocally that cohabitation doesn't work. Churches, the gatekeepers of weddings, can delay no longer. They must educate, equip, and elevate marriage to the position it deserves."

Mike McManus

author, *"Living Together: Myths, Risks and Answers"*

divorce rates in their cities. Marriage Savers collaborates with churches in 229 cities to work on reducing the rate of cohabitation and divorce while raising the marriage rate.

Participating churches sign a public marriage policy to work with other churches to reduce the number of divorces in their city.

"Our goal is to reduce the divorce rate, reduce the cohabitation rate, and raise the marriage rate," McManus said at the Aug. 30 FRC lecture.

Through the Marriage Sav-

ers program, the average divorce rate has fallen 17.5% in cities with marriage policies, while dropping only 9.4% in other cities, according to McManus.

Cohabitation not only is prevalent among younger couples but among adults more than 50 years of age as well. The number of older couples living together has doubled from 1.2 million in 2000 to 2.75 million in 2010, according to researchers at the National Center for Family and Marriage Research (NCFMR) at Bowling Green University in Ohio.

Many older, previously married couples say a wedding is too much of a hassle and are content simply to live together. Among couples between ages 50-64, 12% were cohabiting in 2010. That is up from seven percent 10 years prior, according to NCFMR researchers in a *HealthDay* article.

Young couples cohabit for much different reasons. Some say it is a trial period before marriage, while others blame it on finances. McManus has found through counseling couples with his wife that men and women have competing qualifications for cohabiting. Women see it as preparation for marriage, but men cohabit to avoid marriage, McManus said.

This difference, he said, is the cause of many divorces in young couples. "We want to help men and women have marriages that last," McManus said in his lecture. "This is important for them; it's particularly important for their children, of course."

The effect of cohabitation and divorce on children is vast. Children in cohabiting homes are 20

times more likely to be abused and are 22 times more likely to be incarcerated as an adult than a child from an intact home, McManus said.

Children harmed by the divorce of their parents shy away from marriage and are also more likely to cohabit when they grow up, McManus said.

To help couples have successful marriages, McManus encourages them to live separately before their wedding and abstain from sexual activity. This enables both the man and woman to remain chaste and amplifies the pleasure of sex after marriage, he said.

The majority of couples who abstain from sexual activity before marriage will not be as prone to divorce, he pointed out.

McManus's goal with Marriage Savers is to reduce the divorce rate 15-50% in each city. Some cities have seen a 70% drop in divorce already, he said.

For more information about Marriage Savers, visit marriagesavers.org.

WORLD NEWS

Freed Iranian pastor says Christ provided for him

TEHRAN (BP) — The Iranian pastor who spent more than 1,000 days in prison simply for being a Christian has written an open letter saying Christ provided for his needs while behind bars and thanking those around the world for praying for him.

"I have been put to the test, the test of faith which is, according to the Scriptures 'more precious than perishable gold,'

the pastor, Youcef Nadarkhani, wrote Sept. 8 in a letter that was translated into English. It was posted on the website of the American Center for Law and Justice (ACLU.org). "But I have never felt loneliness, I was all the time aware of the fact that it wasn't a solitary battle, for I have felt all the energy and support of those who obeyed their conscience and fought for the promotion of the justice and the rights of all human beings. ...The Lord has wonderfully provided through the trial, allowing me to face the challenges that were in front of me. As the Scriptures say, 'He will not allow us to be tested beyond our strength.'"

Nadarkhani was arrested in October 2009 while registering his church in Rasht, Iran, although he initially was arrested for protesting his children being taught Islam in school, according to ACLU.

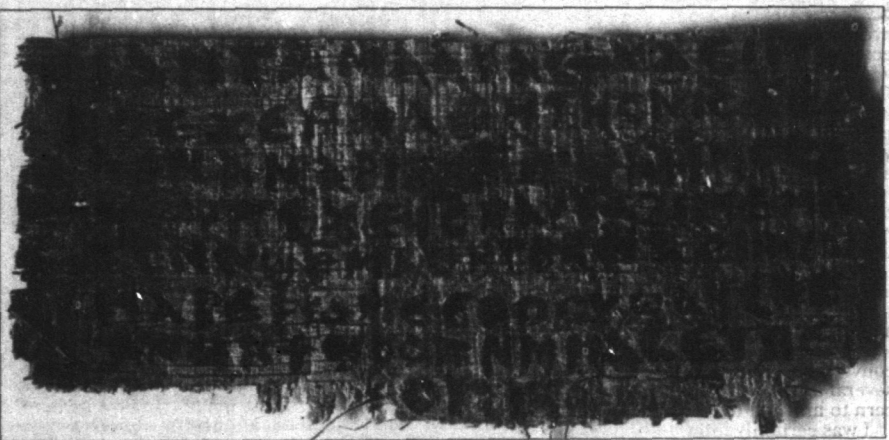


NADARKHANI

He was charged with apostasy for supposedly abandoning Islam and later was given a death sentence. Nadarkhani was acquitted in early September of apostasy, but the court found him guilty of evangelizing Muslims and sentenced him to three years in prison, then released him because he had already served that much time. Nadarkhani said he never had been a Muslim.

"I also want to express my gratitude towards those who, all around the world, have worked for my cause, or should I say the cause that I defend," he wrote in the open letter. "I want to express my gratitude to all of those who have supported me, openly or in complete secrecy. You are all very dear to my heart. May the Lord bless you and give you His perfect and sovereign Grace."

He said while in prison he "had the opportunity to experience in a marvelous way the Scripture that says: 'Indeed, as the sufferings of Christ abound for us, our encouragement abounds through Christ.' [Christ] has comforted my family and has given them the means to face that difficult situation. In His Grace, He provided for their spiritual and material needs, taking away from me a heavy weight."



Credit: Karen King/Harvard University

First person: Does recent discovery prove that Jesus was a married man?

By Thomas White
Correspondent

With all the media publicity

over Karen King's release of information about the fragment of "Jesus' wife," pastors likely will receive questions from church members.



WHITE

For us, there will be two main questions.

First, was Jesus married and does it matter? Secondly, what does "she will be able to be my disciple" mean in the discussion over proper women's roles? I was interviewed by a local news media representative, and since I had to do a little research I thought I would share it with others.

The Facts About the Fragment:

■ The fragment is smaller than a business card, with eight lines on one side legible under a magnifying glass, with about four words per line.

■ The fragment comes from the middle of a text, which means context is lost on all sides.

■ They think the fragment comes from the fourth century. It is written in an Egyptian language, Coptic, and is thought to be a translation of a second-century document. This has not yet been verified.

The Facts About Karen King:

■ The Hollis Professor of Divinity at Harvard Divinity School, she holds the oldest endowed chair in the United States (1721).

■ Her books include *The Secret Revelation of John*; *The Gospel of Mary of Magdala: Jesus and the First Woman Apostle*; *What Is Gnosticism?*; *Reading Judas: The Gospel of Judas and the Shaping of Christianity*; *Revelation of the Unknowable God*; *Images of the Feminine in Gnosticism* (editor); and *Women and Goddess Traditions in Antiquity and Today* (editor).

■ King currently is teaching a class titled: *Women, Sex, and Gender in Ancient Christianity*.

■ King has named the "gospel," of which this fragment is a part, the *Gospel of Jesus's Wife*, for reference purposes.

No matter how good a fish tale one weaves, this fragment is small. The translation can be read at Boston.com (<http://www.boston.com>).

Also, the document dates too late to have impact. The Gospels have authenticity because of the date of their writing, the connection to an eyewitness, and consistency with the rule of faith. Any fragment too far removed from Jesus' time loses credibility because of the distance from Jesus' life, and we can't know who wrote it or what agenda that person may have had.

At best, this document tells us what some people were thinking in the second or fourth century. Yes, it is interesting, but no, it does not change anything. Bottom line is that we have older and more reliable documents in our Bibles.

Check the sponsors. King has an agenda. The naming of the fragment and the naming of the gospel play into her research field of women's roles and unknown gospel accounts. This is like a hunting show demonstrating how a deer must be killed with a Rage broadhead on your arrow — then at the end of the show it's finally mentioned that the only sponsor is Rage broadheads.

While King may be considered

a fine academic scholar, she has an agenda.

Was Jesus married? The New Testament never says so. We would expect to find this information in the Gospels if Jesus had a wife. Furthermore, Paul, when discussing this issue of marriage, notes in 1 Corinthians 9:5 that Peter was married. He likely would have stated Jesus was also married to make his point, but he doesn't.

Most theories of Jesus' wife have him married to Mary Magdalene. Even King says it is unlikely that Mary was Jesus' wife because she is known by the area of her birth, and if she was married, she would be known by her husband.

What about women disciples? Jesus treated women better than did anyone of that time. He had believers and followers who were women, and He appeared to a woman first after the resurrection. So if "disciple" means "follower," which it likely does in the second or fourth century, then there is not an issue here — but don't miss the possible agenda. The New Testament clearly lists that men made up the twelve. The deacons chosen in Acts were men. Scripture gives the man the authority in the home and in the church.

At the end of the day, this unverified fourth century Coptic fragment from an unknown source written by an unknown author doesn't compare to the New Testament record in our Bibles. We should take advantage of this opportunity to reassure our congregations of the reliability of Scripture and warn them of the feminist agenda that pervades our society.

White is vice president of student services and communications at Southwestern Seminary in Ft. Worth. This column first appeared at his blog, www.thomaswhite.wordpress.com, and appears here courtesy of Baptist Press.

Baptist responders on the scene of fatal Niger flooding

NIAMEY, Niger (BP) — Floodwater destroys, dissolves, stains, reeks, stagnates and displaces. For those with homes built of mud and livelihoods based on farming, the devastation and the time it takes to rebuild multiplies exponentially.

This post-flooding assessment by Baptist Global Response (BGR) partners in Niger followed the distribution of some 300 hygiene and living kits to families in two communities, Sarando and Yonkoto, after the Niger River reached its highest levels in 90 years stemming from heavy annual rains in August.

According to reports, rising floodwaters in the West African country have killed 81 people and destroyed 37,000 homes, affecting nearly half the country's already impoverished communities.

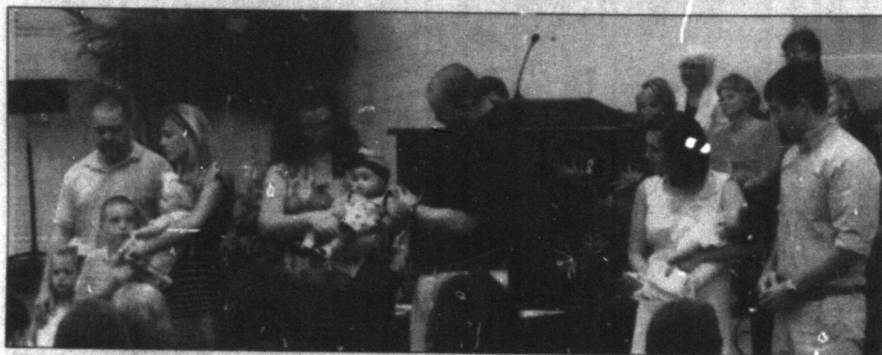
In the village of Sarando, water destroyed nearly 95% of

houses, granaries, and other mud block structures, reported BGR partner Gabe Manor (not his real name). "It was like walking through a village of wax houses," he said. "Houses and other mud structures had melted and flowed away. You could not have sculpted a more pathetic cityscape."

"It's like building a house out of Play-Doh and then squishing it," BGR partner Shadrach Black agreed. "We saw tin roofs lying on top of mounds of mud that used to be family homes."

The BGR team worked with representatives from the U.N. and other aid organizations to "fill the gaps" in smaller or harder-to-reach communities. This level of cooperation assured that organizations were not duplicating efforts and ultimately allowed aid to reach more hurting people, said Mark Hatfield, who directs BGR's work in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Just for the Record



FAITHVIEW CHURCH, SAUCIER, held a baby dedication service recently. Shown are the participants.

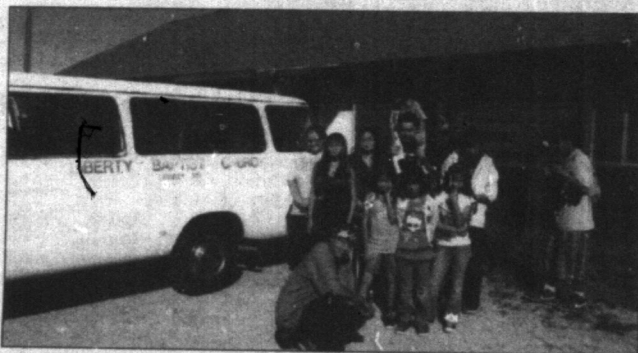
In other Church News:

➤ **Sallis Church, Sallis**, will host the Delta Sound Gospel group Sept. 30, 5 - 6 p.m., followed by fellowship and finger foods.

➤ **Rock Hill Church, Mt. Olive**, will have a fellowship hall building dedication service Sept. 30, 10:30 a.m., followed by dinner on the grounds. Gary Shows, guest speaker; Nelson Crozier, pastor.

➤ **Crystal Ridge Church, Louisville**, will honor the Crystal Ridge Singers on their 30th anniversary Sept. 30, 11 a.m.

➤ **Topeka Church, Jayess**, will have a fall festival Sept. 29, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., including vendors, food, gospel singing, bake sale, silent auction, children's games, fall photos, and the Horse Whisperer featuring Jeffrey Conn. Included is a 5K run/walk, with registration at 6:30 a.m. and race at 7:30 a.m. For more information, call (601) 587-4195 or 320-0723.



LIBERTY CHURCH, LIBERTY, donated its 1992 Dodge Van to Wingate Church, Fort Wingate, N. Mex., Sept. 7. It was used the first time in New Mexico to bring 21 people to church.



WEST END CHURCH, WEST POINT, ordained Joe Pollard and George Hunt as deacons. Shown are Brian Middleton, Pollard, interim pastor Roy Myers, Hunt, and Jerome Key.



UNION CHURCH, TYLERTOWN, held a deacon ordination Aug. 20. Shown are Archie Heron, Millard Moak, Mr. and Mrs. Shayne McKenzie, Mr. and Mrs. Jeramie Sanford, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Smith, and Greg Touchstone.



STANDING PINE CHURCH, WALNUT GROVE, held a deacon ordination service Sept. 16. Shown are Phillip Greer, pastor Jim Burns, and Mike Jamison.

BIBL i O C i P H E R

RLH KDU GYHCVKJUH GNCKD,

MDLGLUWUH SUACUWUKD LE DCK

GDNAAL ELK SU NGDNXUT.

HLXNEG KUE: UAUWUE

Clue: E = N

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Acts Twenty: Twenty-six

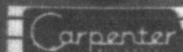
By Charles Marx, 1932-2004, © 2005

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Just for the Record

CHUNKY CHURCH, CHUNKY, held a baby dedication Sept. 9. Shown, from left, are Lance and Emily Dean with Leela Grace and Travis and Emily Thompson with Olivia Maria.



DESOTO CHURCH, CLARKE COUNTY, participated in Christmas in August. GA girls shown are Lynda Maria Roberts, Melissa Clay, Lindsey Clay, Alex Raymond, Savannah Goodman and Heather Raymond. Gloria Pettis, GA leader and WMU director.



FIRST CHURCH, PEARL, ordained deacons Freddie Palmer and Steve Miller. Shown are Palmer, pastor Scott Crawford, and Miller.



The daycare ministry of **FIRST CHURCH, NETTLETON**, recently hosted its annual grandparent breakfast. Shown are the participants.



SYLVA RENA CHURCH, YALOBUSHA COUNTY, recognizes youth participating in the church's youth archery outreach ministry. The program contains Christian counselors, devotionals, and safe range practices. For more information on the ministry, contact Scott Russell at (662) 473-4447.

Truth is not relative.

Find it in the One who is the way, truth, and life.

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life.

From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Christ today, contact a local Southern Baptist church for spiritual guidance.



NEW LIBERTY CHURCH, MORTON, recently expressed appreciation to pastor Paul Smith and his wife Karen for 16 years of ministry to the church and community. They were presented with 16 red roses and a monetary gift.

Staff Changes



IMMANUEL CHURCH, VICKSBURG, has called Greg Mangum as associate pastor and youth minister. He comes to Immanuel from Rolling Creek Church, Quitman. Shown are Mangum and his wife Brittney.

WANILLA CHURCH, TRI-COUNTY ASSOC. (LAWRENCE CO.), has called Lee Faler as pastor. He is pictured with his wife Jordan.



In other Staff Changes News:

► **Ingoimar Church, Union Assoc.**, recently called Terry Cutrer as pastor.

► **Archie Herrin** has announced his retirement as AMD of Lawrence, Marion, and

Walshall Associations. The Tri-County Executive Committee is receiving resumes for the position of Associate Associational Missions Director. Resumes may be sent to tricityyex-com@gmail.com or P.O. Box 350, Columbia, MS 39429.

Submission Guidelines

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either e-mail, CD or DVD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items are generally not publishable. Photographs can not be returned. Please do not attach photos with tape or staples.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

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Revivals & Homecomings

► **Union Hall Church, Brookhaven:** Homecoming and 160th anniversary, Sept. 30; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m., followed by dinner on the grounds; Ricky Cummings, speaker; music, members and former members; Billy Joe Deer, pastor.

► **Military Church, Sumrall:** Homecoming and harvest revival, Sept. 30 - Oct. 3; Sun., 9:30 a.m.; Worship, 10:30 a.m., followed by fellowship lunch and 6:30 p.m.; Mon. Wed., 7 p.m.; Brett Golsos, speaker; Kevin Price, music.

► **Academy Church, Blue Mountain:** Homecoming, Sept. 30; worship, 10:30 a.m., followed by lunch and gospel singing; Jimmy Carr, speaker; Landmarks Quartet, music; Wayne Cobb, pastor.

► **Beat Line Church, Philadelphia:** Revival, Sept. 30 - Oct. 3; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Don Savell, speaker; Ben McDaniel, pastor.

► **Liberty Hill Church, Pope:** Revival, Sept. 30 - Oct. 3; Sun., 11 a.m., followed by dinner on the grounds and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Tommy Snyder, speaker; Billy Grantham, music; Jay Anderson, pastor.

► **Hopewell Church, Hopewell Community (Crystal Springs):** Homecoming, Sept. 30; worship, 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch.

► **Salem Church, Raymond:** Revival, Sept. 30 - Oct. 3; Sun., 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Jamey Ragle, speaker; Gerald Simmons, worship.

► **Mt. Carmel Church, Smith County:** Homecoming/cemetery day, Sept. 30; services, 11 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch and cemetery meeting; Latrelle Crumpton and Dixie Bound, music.

► **Pulaski Church, Pulaski:** Revival, Oct. 1 - 4; 7 p.m. nightly; Earl Clark, Kenny Lang, Joey azzione, and Gary Wyatt, speakers; Jathan Price, Ashley Irby, Danny & Nancy Harrison, and Faith Westberry, music; Mickey Walls, pastor.

► **Mt. Vernon Church, Liberty:** Revival, Oct. 5 - 7; Fri. - Sat., 7 p.m.; Sun., 11 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch; Scott Griffin, speaker; Hubert Greer, music; Jerry Causey, pastor.

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Hotel/Motel Rates for the 2012 Mississippi Baptist Convention

Hotel/Motel rates effective October 28 - 31, 2012.
When you ask for reservations be sure to tell them you
are attending the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

► **Cabot Lodge Jackson North**, 120 Dyess Road, Ridge-
land 39157. \$94.00 Single/ Double per night + 8% tax.
Hot/cold breakfast. 601-957-0757.

► **Cabot Lodge Millsaps**, 2375 North State Street,
Jackson 39202. \$89.00 Single / Double per night + tax
11% + .75 OT. Hot/cold breakfast. 601-948-8650.

► **Comfort Inn**, 1226 Phillips Lane, Pearl 39288. \$79.00
Single / Double per night + 9% tax. Free Hot breakfast.
601-932-4141.

► **Country Inn & Suites**, 3051 White Blvd., Pearl 39208.
\$70.00 Single/Double per night + 9% tax. Free Hot
Breakfast. 601-420-2244.

► **Hampton Inn**, 1234 Phillips Street, Pearl 39288.
\$99.00 Single/ Double per night + 9% tax. Free Hot
breakfast. 601-932-7676.

► **Hilton Garden Inn**, 438 Riverwind Drive, Pearl 39208.
\$119.00 Single/ Double per night + 9% tax. Breakfast
\$5.00 per person. 601-933-1174.

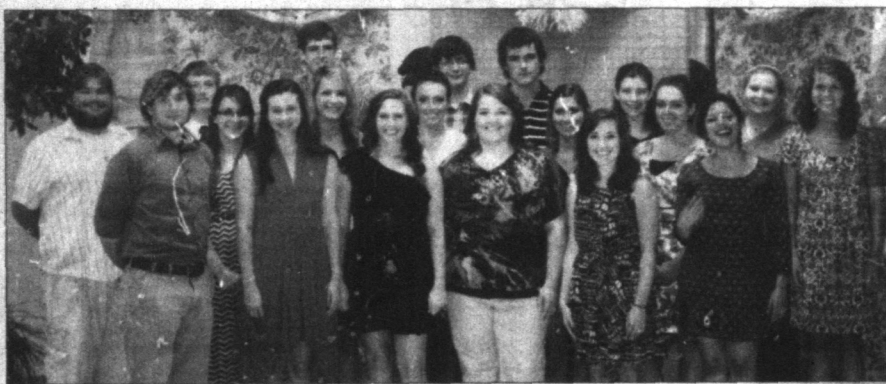
► **Holiday Inn Hotel**, 110 Bass Pro Drive, Pearl 39288.
\$109.00 Single/Double per night + 9% tax. Breakfast -
Varied price from menu. 601-939-5233.

► **Jameson Inn**, 434 Riverwind Drive, Pearl 39208.
\$77.00 Single/ Double per night + 9% tax. Hot break-
fast. 601-932-6030.

For other Mississippi Baptist Convention related news, up-
dates and information, visit us online at www.mbc.org.

First Baptist Church Aberdeen
celebrates
175th Anniversary
and Revival
October 7-10, 2012
Anniversary Sunday, October 7
9:30 a.m. Coffee, Donuts, & Fellowship
10:45 a.m. Worship Service
12:00 noon Dinner on the Grounds
1:30 p.m. Anniversary Celebration
Revival Services, October 8-10
Monday-Wednesday Schedule
6:00 p.m. Dinner in the Fellowship
7:00 p.m. Revival Service
Anniversary & Revival Speaker
Dr. Paul Matthews
Worship Leaders
Bob Bailey & Andy Hammond

College News



WILLIAM CAREY UNIVERSITY enrolled 22 freshmen Carey Scholars in the 2012-2013 class. Shown are (Row 1, left to right) Andrew Coleman, Pascagoula; Haylee Green, Purvis; Ashlee Champagne, Ocean Springs; Emily Lanyon, Petal; Lauren Anderson, Braxton; Kristel Rodriguez, Laurel; (Row 2, left to right) Victoriana Lopez, Carriere; Meghan Maddox, Waveland; Lydia Ulrich, Moss Point; Ashley Miller, Pelahatchie; Brooke Padgett, Purvis; Emily Goff, Vancleave; (Row 3, left to right) Sean Laird, Gulfport; Austin Henderson, Petal; Eric Warren, Wilmer, Ala.; Johnny Walters, Braxton; Jacob Lewis, Houston, Texas; Laura Scovel, Wiggins; Juliana Oswalt, Hattiesburg. (Not Pictured) Rebecca Croker, Vancleave; John Madden, Petal, and Elliot Sorrells, Hattiesburg.

In other College News:

► **Mississippi College** has been ranked 30th among the best regional colleges in the South by U.S. News and World Report. The magazine's annual survey looks at such indicators as faculty/student ratio, ACT averages, the percentage of full-time faculty, graduation rates, the percentage of freshmen graduating in the top 25 percent of their high school class and alumni giving rates.

► **Mississippi College** is hosting its 3rd annual Health Care Reform Summit Oct. 10, 8 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. at Anderson Hall on the Clinton campus. It brings together national health care experts and key state leaders in government and business to address the most pressing topics businesses face in managing health care programs and costs. Governor Phil Bryant, Commissioner of Insurance Mike Chaney and national expert Gary Kushner, President and CEO, Kushner & Company are among the distinguished presenters at this year's summit.

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Director of Missions

The Mid-South Baptist Association is prayerfully seeking a Director of Missions. Send resume by October 15, 2012 to 6896 US Hwy. 70, Bartlett, TN 38133 or email to domsearchteam@msbac.org.

MSBA is an independent and sovereign association in itself, and respects the autonomy of the local congregation. We conform to the doctrine, policy and practice as expressed in the current Baptist Faith and Message.

Mid-South Baptist Association is a regional association made up of over 160 ethnically diverse churches with a total membership of over 60,000 resident members from Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama and Kentucky. We are a fellowship of Southern Baptist Churches committed to the Great Commission. In order to fulfill this mission our operational emphases are: (1) Church Planting and Revitalization, (2) Church Leadership Development, (3) Church Mobilization and (4) Associational Resource Development.

MS POSITIONS

TWIN LAKES BAPTIST, MADISON, MS IS SEEKING A PART-TIME CHILDREN'S MINISTER. Please mail resume to 673 Lake Cavalier Road, Madison, Ms 39110 or e-mail to cindyholt2002@yahoo.com

THE TRI-COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IS RECEIVING RESUMES FOR THE POSITION OF ASSOCIATE ASSOCIATIONAL MISSIONS DIRECTOR. Resumes may be sent to tricityexec@msmail.com or P. O. Box 350, Columbia, MS 39429.

ZION HILL BAPTIST CHURCH, WESSON, MS IS SEEKING A PART-TIME YOUTH MINISTER. Please send resumes to Zion Hill Baptist Church, Attention: Youth Minister Search Committee 8081 Martinsville, Rd., Wesson, MS 39191 or e-mail info@zionhillwesson.org

FBC OF PEARL IS LOOKING FOR A PART-TIME STUDENT MINISTER. Contact Pastor Scott Crawford at scottcrawford01@msn.com

VAIDEN BAPTIST CHURCH, VAIDEN, MS IS SEEKING A FULL-TIME YOUTH MINISTER/ASSOCIATE PASTOR. Interested parties may submit resumes by mail to: Youth Minister Search Committee, Vaiden Baptist Church, 501 Mulberry Street, Vaiden, MS 39176.

FBC INDIANOLA, MS IS SEEKING A FULL-TIME MINISTER OF MUSIC. Please mail resumes to First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 366, Indianola, MS 38751 or e-mail them to fbciindianola@gmail.com

OUR PASTOR OF TWENTY-SIX YEARS, BRO. DALE EASLEY, HAS TAKEN RETIREMENT AFTER SUFFERING A STROKE. FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH VARDAMAN, OF VARDAMAN, MS, HAS FORMED A PULPIT SEARCH COMMITTEE AND WILL BE TAKING RESUMES FOR THIS POSITION. If you are interested, please call the church office (662)682-7458 or e-mail fbvc@tds.net

THE VILLAGE VIEW



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GIFTS OF HONOR AND MEMORY

A portion of The Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful, and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

AUGUST 2012

MEMORIALS

Mrs. Margaret Marsick
East Louisville BC
Mrs. Lucille H. Harris
Tim Martin
Faith Workers SSC,
Oakdale BC
Leslie Mason
Mrs. Carol J. Rather
Tom Mast
Reece & Martha Douglas
Dr. Chester W. Masterson
John & Frances Harper
Betty Matthews
Dot & Joe Cupetid
Mrs. Mae Matthews
Dr. & Mrs. Victor Walsh
Ray Maxwell
Charlie & Debbie Breland
Mr. Carroll McCordle Jr
Spring Hill BC
Mr. Willis Rae McKee
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry E.
Breakfield Sr.
Henry McRee
Frances & Rich
Defenbaugh
Max McWhirter
Peggy, Mike & Scott
Garrett
Robbie Gregory
Brad & Shan Henderson
Erline Middleton
Ms. Birtie M. Kennedy
Mr. Roland Mikell
Oak Grove BC, Prentiss
Lt. Col Bill Miller (USAF Ret.)
Roy & Gerry Daughdrill
Billy H. Miller

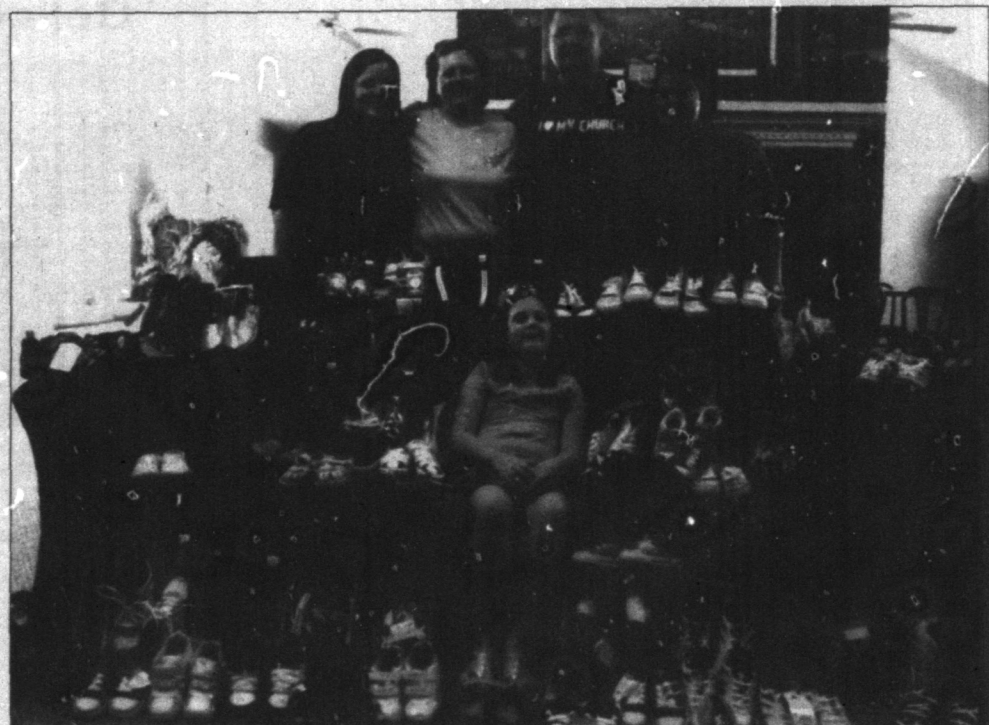
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Mrs. Naomi Ming
Mr. & Mrs. Darry Crowell
& Lindsey
Mrs. Dorothy Mitchell
McAdams BC, Sallis
Jimmy & Jo Jenkins
David Mize
Mrs. Althea M. Partridge
Sara Morris
Ms. Carolyn Johnston
Mrs. Margie Myers
Jimmy & Jo Jenkins
Eileen Nail
East Louisville BC
Billy Nelson
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Trussell
Mavis Newton
Mrs. Opal Vickers
Rev. Don O'Quin
Mr. & Mrs. Curtis A.
Buchanan
Ray & Lee Rounsaville
Lora Jean Odom
Plave BC
Mr. & Mrs. Billie S.
Broome
Malcolm & Letya Brown
Mr. & Mrs. David Dewitt
Mr. & Mrs. Otis N.
Elmore
Mr. & Mrs. James E. Jones
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Jones
J. Todd Wilder
Sara L. Wilder
Mr. & Mrs. Marvin
Edwards
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Children
Gary & Jacque Jaworski

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Ross Aven Parker
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Mary Louise Peacock
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Buchanan
Mrs. Tom (Robbie) Beall Petty
Kenneth & Paula Laney
Martha & Connie Mack
Bowers
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Mr. Johnny Jones
Mr. Kizer Jones
Mrs. Rudolph Jones
Ms. Delores Munn
Mr. Ralph Whittle
Pat & Danny White
John Heer & Sr. L'ship N
MS Health Serv
Ms. Ruth N. Allen
Fellowship SSC West
Heights BC
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Denny & Laura Cole
Mrs. Edwina Kish
Mrs. Dean Pett
Ralph & Sadie Carroll
Jon Pevey
Mrs. Jerrie S. Foote
Gary & Amye Wiggs
Louis Pharis
Billy & Lori Barnett
Edith Pinnix
John & Claire Barlow
Elizabeth "Liz" Pounds
Mr. & Mrs. Jesse R.
Johnson
Mrs. Bobbie Nell Price

Ms. Lisa Thompson
Mr. James W. Pryor
Mr. & Mrs. Perry E.
Atherton
Mrs. Clara M. Purvis
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BC, Louisville
The Golden Circle SSC, Good
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Glen & Donna King
Gundy Sappington
Mrs. Evelyn Sappington
Brad Scoggins
Ms. Susan R. Lynch
Hansel Scruggs
Mr. & Mrs. James H. Ellis
Mr. Bert Shealy
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry E.
Breakfield Sr.
Gene Simmons
Jerry & Janie Sisco
Danny Simpson
Mrs. Carol J. Rather
Elmer "Hawk" Smith
Jerry & Janie Sisco
Frances Amelia McNeil Smith
Duncan-Williams, Inc.
Ed Griffin & Family
Mrs. Tena Haskins

Robert & Patricia
Oberbiling
Mrs. Mattie Rials
Peyton Chambers
Sara F. Davis
Mr. & Mrs. Joe Oliver
Mrs. Dorothy L. Gilbert
Mrs. Betty Jo Hewitt
Ms. Arlene Crider
Ms. Mary F. Frazier
Mr. Jimmy Frazier
Margie Smith
Dorcas-Ruth SSC, Bogue
Chitto BC
W. B. Smith
Ms. Patricia S. Green
William Barron "Bill" Smith
Mr. & Mrs. Gary J.
Murphy
Maege Cooperative
Jeff & Kr. Stingley
Ms. Bonnie Sprayberry
Mr. & Mrs. Perry E.
Atherton
Lamar Stanford
Mr. Charlie Christmas
Mrs. Doris Stinson
Dr. & Mrs. Victor Walsh
Randall Sutherland
Mr. & Mrs. Jesse R.
Johnson
Rivers Elwood Sutton
Mr. & Mrs. James Crosby
Irene Tankesly
John & Nancy Miller
Mrs. Bettie W. Thornton
Jimmy & Jo Jenkins
Jimmy & Billie Breland
Mrs. Odie Mae Thrasher
Homemakers SSC, Calvary
BC
Allen Dale Torrains Sr.
Tinsley BC
Mr. Bill Trotter
Mr. & Mrs. Curtis A.
Buchanan
Mr. Jake Reginald Vandevender

Carl & Eunice Woolery
Mr. Wayne Vaughn
Mr. & Mrs. Al Owen
Edward Walker
Mrs. Virginia R. Blackwell
Mrs. Lena Walker
Mrs. Joy B. Roberts
Warren K. "Tiny" Walker
Arthur & Alicia Powell
Burnett
Mrs. Beth Walsh
Mrs. Virginia C. Quarles
Ralph & Sadie Carroll
Mr. & Mrs. E. J. Grisham
Sr.
Stanley Warner
Michael & Shirell Betts
Mrs. Vernon Watkins
Mr. & Mrs. Hubert T.
Kendrick
Elton Watson
Mr. & Mrs. Glynn Jones
Miss Laura Watts
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmie L.
Manton
Joseph Webb
Harvey & Rita Tumis
Stephen & Celeste Webb
Mr. Robert Weed
Mr. & Mrs. Al Owen
Mr. Boyd F. Wells
Ms. Norvelle Wells
Chris & Laura Wells
Don & Lynn Wells
Dr. & Mrs. Victor Walsh
Cynthia White
Fritz Wescott & Jane
Hogbin
Mr. Wescott's Daughters
Louis Wilkinson
Tommy & Sheila Bryson
Mr. Harold Williams
Dr. & Mrs. Victor Walsh
Mrs. Betty Wolfe
Ruth SSC, Hurley BC,
Hurley



Caelan asked her friends to bring shoes for The Baptist Children's Village instead of gifts to her birthday party. She is pictured with her grandparents Mr. & Mrs. Michael Sharp, members at Mars Hill Baptist Church, and her aunts Amy Freeman and Jamie Newman.

Living Under Stress • 1 Peter 2:18-25

Today's Scripture focuses on giving glory to God in our lives even when living under stressful circumstances. While our circumstances may differ from those in the first century, our goals in life are the same. We are to show proper respect to persons in authority over us for the glory of God. Three words outline a Christian response to stressful circumstances.

1. Submit (v. 18)

Slaves, submit yourselves to your masters with all respect, not only to those who are good and considerate, but also to those who are harsh (NIV).

While none of us are slaves we all live as people under authority. The police are in authority to enforce the laws of our land. Managers are in authority to enforce policies in the work place. Principals are in authority to enforce policies in schools. Even pastors are in positions of authority representing God as His appointed spokesmen. God has ordained it so.

A person's respect for authority, or lack thereof, is a reflection of his spiritual maturity and character. Since God commands that Christians respect those in authority, attitudes and actions that are disrespectful to authority are sins against God. Before God all sin is sinful, breaks fellowship with Him, and has damaging consequences.

Many defend their sinful attitudes by saying, "I respect the position, but not the

person". There is a Greek word for that, "hogwash". Peter said Christians are to show respect ...not only to those who are good and considerate, but also to those who are harsh.

2. Clarify

This principle is especially important in the church, because "enforcing authority" in church is often considered "un-Christian". Christian denominations follow a variety of patterns of church governance. The issue of authority in the Baptist church is confusing at best and divisive at worst. What does the New Testament say about this?

Jesus called them together and said, "You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all (Mark 10:42-44, NIV).

Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you (Heb 13:17, NIV).

While denominations vary on positions of authority, the Bible is clear that all Christians are to relate to each other with humility and respect in the church. Leaders are to humbly approach their roles and lead by example, while church members are to humbly respect and follow their leaders in obedience to God.

Too often as church leaders and members we fail to act in humility. A culture that lacks mutual humility and respect is immature and dysfunctional. God is not honored in such a climate, and His mission in the community is paralyzed.

3. Follow (v. 21-24 NIV)

To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example,

that you should follow in his steps...He committed no sin...but...bore our sins in his body...so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness.

To "what" are we called? To follow Christ's example. And what is that example? He laid aside his glory, his power, his authority, his rights, his position, and suffered at the hands of sinful men so that you and I could be saved. We too are called to lay aside our glory, our power, our authority, our rights, and our position so that others can be saved.

Jesus could have defended himself, asserted his rights, and escaped crucifixion. He had the authority to call angels to come and take him off the cross. But He chose to submit to authority for your salvation and mine.

As an American you don't "have to" respect those in authority in your church. You don't "have to" submit to their leadership. But as a Christian, you "choose" to submit to those God has placed in authority. You choose to obey God's Word and follow Christ's example, so that others will see His glory and be drawn to Him.

These truths apply to all of us. By letting them be true in your life and church today, you will honor God and help others come to Him.

Bishop is a member of Harrisburg Church, Tupelo.



Explore the Bible

with David B. Bishop

Your Decision • Matthew 7:13-29

Paraphrasing Oswald Chambers: "We and the disciples so appreciate the marvelous salvation of Jesus Christ that we have to be our utmost for his Highest." We have to use the power of the Holy Spirit to keep us in practice. The difficulties are challenging as well as inspiring to the serious believer for the gate is straight and the way is narrow. Its a test, and it tests us for all we are worth. The disciples are now learning that lofty type jobs are challenging. We are to submit to His will so He can break us and fit us to serve others. Hear God when He says "...never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." (Heb. 13:5 NIV).

Vs. 13-14 — The prodigious Sermon on the Mount ends with warnings, offering choices of gates, roads, crowds, and destinations. He has to prove that only an outward display of religion is insufficient. The way of discipleship is narrow, restricting. The narrow road leads to life and the broad road leads to destruction. Matthew indicates this is the beginning of the entrance to the kingdom, going through the small gate, onto the narrow way of persecution but all under the authority of Jesus Christ.

Vs. 15-20 — Jesus gives warnings (though quite broad) to watch out for false prophets. They can be zealots, gnostics, scribes, antinomians, or even rabbis, who were capable of violating truths of the

Scriptures. It was vital to be schooled on how to distinguish sheep from wolves in sheep's clothing. We have no evidence that the aforementioned bunch ever taught the narrow way to life was subject to persecution.

We will always know a tree by its fruit. Discernment is paramount here. Our fruit is not just what we do, but what we think and say will ultimately reveal the real self. Jesus warned that every tree not bearing good fruit is cut and thrown in the burn pile.

Vs. 21-23 deal with false followers. Calling Jesus "Lord, Lord," became a form of worship and/or full confession of the deity of Jesus. He alone after resurrection decrees who does or does not enter the kingdom, determined by obedience to the Father's will. Remember Matthew proclaims that Jesus fulfilled the law and thus we get the nature of its continuity. In V. 22

"that day" is the Day of Judgment. Jesus himself will decide who enters the kingdom and who will be banished from his presence. Is that major or not? Not all who speak as a prophet have the behavior and demeanor of the Lord (e.g. Judas Iscariot, Balaam). Love is a more excellent way.

Vs. 24-27 — No matter the foundation, our "houses" can look good and feel good in calm weather. We're all okay, until

the storms hit, physical crisis, death, financial problems, marital trials, unintended consequences, chaos everywhere. The wise man who puts the warnings of Jesus into serious practice builds to withstand these things. Jesus in small doses won't cover you when life's storms show up, and drat it, they always do. There is required a radical submission to the lordship of Jesus — He who fulfilled the Law and plainly warns that disobedience is dangerous to our health here on earth and for our life in the hereafter.

Eternal damnation comes to mind.

Vs. 28-29 — When Jesus concluded his sermon, the crowds were amazed and astonished at his teachings. They were so used to listening to the Scribes and Pharisees regurgitating ideas from others, and sans passion. Somehow, then as now, when Jesus speaks, we are jolted with his authority, His own. He wasn't speaking about love, He is love. He alone is messianic, not ordinary, and He determines who enters the kingdom. He unquestionably knows the will of his Father. The crowds hearing him for the first time recognized a uniqueness that possibly they didn't fully comprehend, but were impressed, and went away remembering things he said.

Discernment is a great gift and how useful is it now that we are on media overload and need it more than ever. Lord, give us wisdom to know what is true and what is not. The audiences Jesus drew for the most part recognized how true were his powerful admonitions and directives given out of love for them. He moved on from here to performing amazing miracles. The gospel really is about Jesus and his empowerment. Read all about it in the Holy Bible and learn how to live life.

Gibson is a member of Monticello Church, Monticello.



Bible Studies for Life

with Evelyn Gibson

GLIEBE

cont. from p.2

truths, not just political hot buttons.

■ Exhort the congregation to vote. "We the people," means that all of us are re-

sponsible to preserve our republic. The citizenry of America is enormously powerful. Remind the congregation that voting is a privilege, a responsibility, a sacred trust.

■ Encourage the formation of a task force at the church that has as its purpose to register voters, provide

voter guides before elections, and inform the congregation about issues that matter so they can contact their representative and senators.

■ Invite pastors in your circle of influence to get involved, share ideas, and establish partnerships with them.

There is strength in numbers.

In the fight for life, marriage, and religious freedom, every vote counts and every pastor matters. Get started by visiting ChampionTheVote.com.

Gliebe is scheduled to

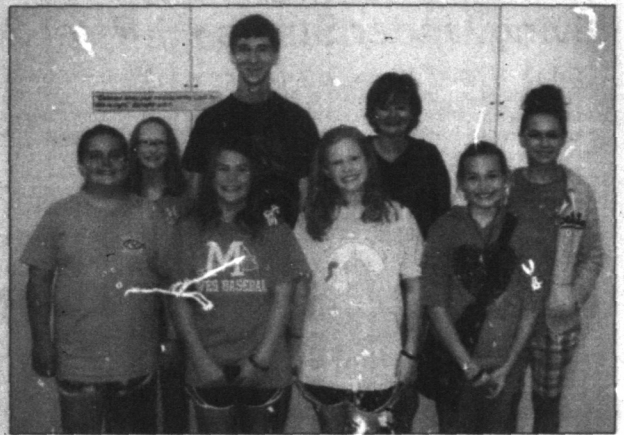
graduate in December from Southwestern Seminary in Ft. Worth with a Ph.D. in childhood education. She is a member of Southcliff Church, and she and her husband Steven reside in Benbrook, Texas. Her commentary appears here courtesy of Baptist Press.

Just for the Record



CALVARY CHURCH, OAK GROVE, ordained Brad Rimes (front, center) as deacon on Sept. 9. Shown with Rimes are Allen Stevens, Jamie Davion, Kyle Turner, pastor Jeff Floyd, and Aker Smith.

Youth from **LIBERTY HILL CHURCH, POPE**, recently attended a two-day "Taking Jesus Back to School" Camp led by Leflore Church at Camp Lakeside, the Tallahatchie Baptist Assoc. encampment. Shown are participants with group leader Sherry Hall.



WEST HEIGHTS CHURCH, PONTOTOC, ordained Tommy Jackson and Craig Farley as deacons on Sept. 2. Pictured from left are Jackson, pastor David Hamilton, and Farley.



The youth of **STEELE CHURCH, FOREST**, recently attended M-Fuge in Kentucky. Pictured are participants and chaperones. Reggie Williams, pastor.



CORINTH CHURCH, MAGEE, held a GA recognition service on Sept. 9. Pictured are participants wearing sashes with the badges they earned.

SHILOH CHURCH, SONTAG, held a GA/RA recognition service on Aug. 26. Pictured are participants.



CALVARY CHURCH, BOGUE, sent five youth to Super Summer at Mississippi College in Clinton. Pictured are Marcus Moak, leader Phillip Wallace, Kaylie Crosby, Jamie Lee, Kara Beth Crosby, leader Melane Crosby, and Jake Bradley.



Twenty-four children from **HOLLY CHURCH, ALCORN ASSOCIATION**, participated in Kids Camp 2012 at Central Hills Retreat. Several decisions for Christ were made, professions of faith and rededication.